



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 the following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-33 (Cancelled)

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): A tights-type leg support garment comprising:

an inner leg surface;

an outer leg surface;

a front surface;

a rear surface;

a first stretchable portion in the shape of a band extending from an upper portion of the outer leg surface obliquely across the front surface of the garment to a middle portion of the inner leg surface and covering a portion of the corresponding middle portion on the rear surface; and

a second stretchable portion,

wherein said first stretchable portion has a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion,

said first stretchable portion is configured to substantially ~~covers~~ cover the ligamentum collaterallis on a medial side of a knee joint of a wearer and ~~extends~~ further configured to extend obliquely from a superior side of said knee joint through at least ¼ of the length of the anterior surface of the corresponding thigh of said wearer and along the portion of the corresponding musculus sartorius of said wearer beneath said anterior surface of said thigh, thereby applying greater pressure along said anterior surface of said musculus sartorius than said second portion applies to portions of said thigh that are covered by said second portion, and

said garment supports said knee joint and provides full degrees of freedom of movement of said knee joint.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 34, wherein said garment has a length ~~capable of covering~~ configured to cover at least the region from ~~the~~ a waistline to the inferior sides of the knees of said wearer.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 34, wherein said first stretchable portion is further configured to cover ~~covers~~ a ~~lateral~~ medial side of the patella and a part of the ~~lateral~~ medial inferior side of the patella, thereby supporting the knee joint without decreasing the freedom of movement of said knee joint.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): A tights-type leg support garment comprising:

an inner leg surface;

an outer leg surface;

a front surface;

a rear surface;

a first stretchable portion in the shape of a band extending from an upper portion of the outer leg surface obliquely across the front surface of the garment to a middle portion of the inner leg surface and covering a portion of the corresponding middle portion on the rear surface; and

a second stretchable portion,

wherein said first stretchable portion has a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion,

said first stretchable portion is configured to ~~substantially covers~~ cover the ligamentum collaterallis on a medial side of a knee joint of a wearer and further configured to extend ~~extends~~ obliquely from a superior side of said knee joint through at least ½ of the length of the anterior surface of the corresponding thigh of said wearer and along the portion of the corresponding musculus sartorius of said wearer beneath said anterior surface of said thigh,

thereby applying greater pressure along said anterior surface of said musculus sartorius than said second portion applies to portions of said thigh that are covered by said second portion, supporting said knee joint, and providing full degrees of freedom of movement of said knee joint.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 37, ~~which further includes~~ comprising:

a third stretchable portion disposed on the rear surface of the garment and having a pair of bands extending from a center line of the rear surface obliquely across the rear surface to the outer leg surface of the garment; and

a fourth stretchable portion disposed on the front surface of the garment and having a pair of bands extending from a center line of the front surface obliquely across the front surface to the outer leg surface of the garment,

wherein said third and fourth stretchable portions have ~~having~~ a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion,

~~wherein~~ said third stretchable portion is configured to extend ~~extends~~, on the posterior side of the wearer, from the vertebrae lumbales to the os sacrum, through an approximately middle parts of the right and left musculus gluteus maximus in a direction approximately along said musculus gluteus maximus via the vicinity of the top bulge of the hip to at least the vicinity of the trochanter major; and

~~which further includes said~~ [[a]] fourth stretchable portion ~~having a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion, wherein said fourth portion is configured to extend~~ ~~extends~~, on the anterior side of the wearer, from a position in the hypergastric region of the musculus rectus abdominis obliquely downward in the direction approximately along the right and left musculus obliquus internis abdominis portion to the vicinity of the trochanter major.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 37, wherein ~~when~~ said garment is ~~capable of covering the body~~ configured to cover ~~of said wearer~~ from ~~the~~ a waistline to a superior side of the ankles of said wearer.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 37, wherein said garment has a length ~~capable of covering~~ configured to cover at least the region from ~~the~~ a waistline to the inferior sides of the knees of said wearer.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 40, wherein said first stretchable portion is further configured to ~~substantially covers the ligamentum collaterale on the medial side of the knee joint of said wearer;~~ extends ~~extend~~ approximately along a periphery on the medial side of the patella to surround not less than approximately 1/4 of said periphery and ~~eovers~~ cover at least a part of an inferior region of said patella[[:]], and

further configured to reach ~~reaches~~ a side of a superior part of the musculus gastrocnemius on the medial side[[:]], and

on a superior side of said knee joint, further configured to extend ~~extends~~ from a medial side to a lateral side of the thigh via an anterior side thereof approximately along the musculus sartorius to a vicinity of the trochanter major passing a superior part of the musculus rectus femoris.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 41, wherein said first stretchable portion is further configured to extend ~~extends~~ from a vicinity of the trochanter major to a vicinity of the waist along the tractus iliobtibialis.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 41, wherein said first stretchable portion is further configured to cover ~~eovers~~ at least a part of a superior region of the patella by further extending thereto approximately from a vicinity of the periphery of said patella on the medial side of said patella.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 41, ~~which~~ further ~~includes~~ comprising:

a third stretchable portion having a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion, said third stretchable portion extending in a band-like fashion from a middle portion of the outer leg surface down though a lower portion of the outer leg surface along the outer leg surface of the garment,

wherein said third portion is configured to extend ~~extends~~ from a vicinity of the trochanter major downward approximately along the tratus iliobtibialis to a lateral side of the patella[[:]],

~~covers~~ further configured to cover at least a part of the inferior region of the patella extending from the lateral side thereof[[:]], and

further configured to reach ~~reaches~~ a side of a superior part of the musculus gastrocnemius on the lateral side.

Claim 45 (Cancelled)

Claim 46 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 40, ~~which further includes~~ comprising:

a third stretchable portion disposed on the rear surface of the garment and having a pair of bands extending from a center line of the rear surface obliquely across the rear surface to the outer leg surface of the garment; and

a fourth stretchable portion disposed on the front surface of the garment and having a pair of bands extending from a center line of the front surface obliquely across the front surface to the outer leg surface of the garment,

wherein said third and fourth stretchable portions have ~~having~~ a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion,

~~wherein~~ said third portion is configured to extend ~~extends~~, on the posterior side of the human, from the vertebrae lumbales to the os sacrum, through an approximately middle parts of the right and left musculus gluteus maximus in a direction approximately along said musculus gluteus maximus via the vicinity of the top bulge of the hip to at least the vicinity of the trochanter major[[:]], and

~~which further includes a fourth stretchable portion having a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion, wherein~~ said fourth stretchable portion is configured to extend ~~extends~~, on the anterior side of the wearer, from a position in the hypergastric region of the musculus rectus abdominis obliquely downward in the direction approximately along the right and left musculus obliquus internis abdominis portion to the vicinity of the trochanter major.

Claim 47 (Currently Amended): A tights-type leg support garment comprising:

an inner leg surface;

an outer leg surface;

a front surface;

a rear surface;

a first stretchable portion in the shape of a band extending from an upper portion of the outer leg surface obliquely across the front surface of the garment to a middle portion of the inner leg surface and covering a portion of the corresponding middle portion on the inner leg surface and rear surface; and

a second stretchable portion,

wherein said first stretchable portion has a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion,

said first stretchable portion is configured to substantially ~~eovers~~ cover the ligamentum collaterallis on a medial side of a knee joint of a wearer, and further configured to extend ~~extends~~ approximately along a vicinity of the periphery of the patella of said ~~human~~ wearer on a medial side thereof to surround said patella through at least approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of the periphery of said patella to cover at least a part of an inferior region of said patella and extends to a side of a muscle selected from the group consisting of (i) the musculus gastrocnemius, (ii) the musculus soleus, or (iii) a combination thereof; and on a superior side of said knee-joint extends obliquely from a medial side to a lateral side of the corresponding thigh through the anterior surface of said thigh, along the portion of the corresponding musculus sartorius of said wearer beneath said anterior surface of said thigh, and to a vicinity of the corresponding trochanter major and over a superior part of the musculus rectus femoris,

thereby applying greater pressure along said anterior surface of said musculus sartorius than said second portion applies to portions of said thigh that are covered by said second portion, supporting said knee joint, and providing full degrees of freedom of movement of said knee joint.

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 47, wherein said first stretchable portion is further configured to extend ~~extends~~ from said vicinity of said trochanter major to a vicinity of the waist of said ~~human~~ wearer along the tractus iliotibialis.

Claim 49 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 47, wherein said first stretchable portion ~~is further covers~~ configured to cover at least a part of a superior region of the corresponding patella and ~~extends further configured to extend~~ to said part of said superior patella region from a vicinity of the periphery of said patella on the medial side of said patella.

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 47, wherein said first stretchable portion further comprises:

a stretchable portion extending from a lower part of the inner leg surface obliquely across the front surface to a middle portion of the outer leg surface of the garment,

wherein said stretchable portion of said first stretchable portion is configured to further extends extend obliquely upward ~~from~~ from a side of the corresponding musculus gastrocnemius on the medial side through a vicinity of the periphery of said patella on the inferior side of said patella to a lateral side of said patella.

Claim 51 (Cancelled)

Claim 52 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 47, further comprising:

a third stretchable portion having a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion, said third stretchable portion extending from an upper portion of the outer leg surface down to a lower portion of the outer leg surface along the outer leg surface of the garment and having a taper at the lower portion extending from the outer leg surface to no more than a center portion of the front surface of the garment,

wherein said third stretchable portion is configured to extend ~~extends~~ from a vicinity of the corresponding trochanter major approximately along the corresponding tractus iliotibialis to a lateral side of said patella~~[[;]]~~, configured to cover ~~covers~~ at least a part of the inferior region of said patella extending from the lateral side thereof~~[[;]]~~, and further configured to pass ~~passes~~ a side of the corresponding muscle selected from the group consisting of (i) the musculus gastrocnemius, (ii) the musculus soleus, or (iii) a combination thereof on the lateral side.

Claim 53 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim ~~[[52]]~~ 47, wherein said first stretchable portion further comprises:

a stretchable portion extending from a lower portion of the inner leg surface obliquely across the front surface to a middle portion of the outer leg surface of the garment, and further extending from a lower portion of the outer leg surface to a middle portion of the outer leg surface along the outer leg surface,

wherein said stretchable portion of said first stretchable portion is configured to further extend ~~extends~~ obliquely upward ~~from~~ from a side of the musculus gastrocnemius on the medial side through the vicinity of the periphery of the inferior side of the patella and reaches the lateral side of the patella, thereby maintaining the knee joint without decreasing the freedom of movement of said knee joint.

Claim 54 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 47, wherein said first stretchable portion further comprises:

a stretchable portion extending from an upper portion of the inner leg surface to a middle portion of the inner leg surface along the inner leg surface of the garment and covering a portion of the corresponding upper and middle portion of the rear surface of the garment,

wherein said stretchable portion of said first stretchable portion is configured to extend ~~further extends~~ approximately along at least one corresponding muscle selected from the group consisting of (i) the musculus semitendinosus, (ii) the musculus semimembranosus, and (iii) the musculus gracilis to a vicinity selected from the group consisting of (i) the vicinity of the crotch and (ii) the vicinity of the sulcus gluteus.

Claim 55 (Currently Amended): A tights-type leg support garment comprising:

an inner leg surface;

an outer leg surface;

a front surface;

a rear surface;

a second stretchable portion,

wherein said first stretchable portion has a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion,

said first stretchable portion is configured to substantially ~~covers~~ cover the ligamentum collaterale medialis on a medial side of a knee joint of a wearer; and

said first stretchable portion is further configured to, on a superior side of said knee joint, ~~extends~~ extend obliquely and spirally from the medial side to the lateral side of the thigh along the musculus sartorius toward the vicinity of the trochanter major, thereby supporting said knee joint and providing full degrees of freedom of said knee joint.

Claim 59 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 58, wherein said garment has a length ~~capable of covering~~ configured to cover at least the region from ~~the~~ a waistline to the superior sides of the ankles of said wearer.

Claim 60 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 58, wherein said garment has a length ~~capable of covering~~ configured to cover at least the region from ~~the~~ a waistline to the inferior sides of the knees of said wearer.

Claim 61 (Currently Amended): A tights-type leg support garment comprising:

an inner leg surface;

an outer leg surface;

a front surface;

a rear surface;

a first stretchable portion extending from an upper portion of the outer leg surface obliquely across the front surface of the garment to a middle portion of the inner leg surface in a band-like fashion and covering a portion of the corresponding middle portion on the rear surface, said first stretchable portion comprising:

a projecting part, said projecting part extending from the middle portion of the inner leg surface and tapering to a vertex at a center of the front surface of the garment;

and

a second stretchable portion, and

a third stretchable portion having a triangular shape and extending from a lower portion of the outer leg surface across to a center of the front surface of the garment,

wherein said first stretchable portion has a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion,

said first stretchable portion is configured to substantially covers cover the ligamentum collaterallis on a medial side of a knee joint of a wearer, and further configured to extend extends approximately along a periphery of the vicinity of the medial side of the patella to cover a part of an inferior region of the patella, and further configured to reach reaches a side of the musculus gastrocnemius and the medial side of the musculus soleus, and

said first stretchable portion is further configured to, on the superior side of the knee joint, extends extend from the medial side to the lateral side of the thigh via the anterior side thereof approximately along the musculus sartorius toward the vicinity of the trochanter major, and

wherein said ~~first~~ third stretchable portion includes a triangle-shaped part is configured to be located on the lateral inferior side of the patella, and wherein

said a vertex of a projecting part of said first stretchable portion is configured to cover of a part of the inferior region of the patella ~~which reaches to reach~~ a side of the musculus gastrocnemius and the musculus soleus on the medial side, and further configured to contact ~~contacts~~ a vertex of said ~~triangle-shaped part~~ third stretchable portion at a position on the inferior side of the patella, thereby supporting the knee joint without decreasing the freedom of movement of said knee joint; and

~~wherein~~ said garment has a length ~~capable of covering~~ configured to cover at least the region from the waistline to the superior sides of the ankles of said wearer.

Claim 62 (Currently Amended): A tights-type leg support garment comprising:

an inner leg surface;

an outer leg surface;

a front surface;

a rear surface;

a first stretchable portion disposed on the front surface of the garment, said first stretchable portion in the shape of a band comprising:

an upper portion extending from an upper portion of the outer leg surface obliquely across the front surface to a middle portion of the inner leg surface, covering a portion of the corresponding middle portion on the rear surface, and

a lower portion extending from the middle portion of the inner leg surface obliquely across a lower portion of the front surface to the outer leg portion of the garment; and

a second stretchable portion,

wherein said first stretchable portion has a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion,

said first stretchable portion is configured to substantially covers cover the ligamentum collaterallis on a medial side of a knee joint of a wearer, configured to extend extends approximately along a periphery of the vicinity of the patella on the medial side of said wearer around a part of periphery the patella to cover an inferior region of the patella, configured to extend extends obliquely through the anterior side of the lower leg region to the lateral side of said wearer in the direction of the malleolus lateralis, and further configured to, on the superior side of the knee joint, extends extend from the medial side to the lateral side of the thigh via the anterior side thereof approximately along the musculus sartorius toward the vicinity of the trochanter major, thereby supporting the knee joint without decreasing the freedom of movement of said knee joint.

Claim 63 (New): A garment as defined in claim 34, further comprising:

a third stretchable portion having a greater straining force than said second portion, said third stretchable portion extending from the outer leg surface towards the middle of the front surface,

wherein said third stretchable portion is configured to cover a lateral side of the patella and a part of the lateral inferior side of the patella, thereby supporting the knee joint without decreasing the freedom of movement of said knee joint.

Claim 64 (New): A garment as defined in claim 53, further comprising:

a third stretchable portion having a greater straining force than said second portion, said third stretchable portion extending from a bottom of the outer leg surface along the outer leg surface to the lower portion of the outer leg surface,

wherein said third stretchable portion is configured to cover at least one corresponding muscle selected from the group consisting of (i) the musculus gastrocnemius, (ii) the musculus soleus, or (iii) a combination thereof on a lateral side.